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## Book Notices.

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### NIEBUHR ON THE AMARNA TIME.<sup>1</sup>

This is the second *Heft* of the new series *Der alte Orient*, herausgegeben von der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft. It is a popular treatment, under five heads, of the Tel el-Amarna inscriptions and their importance: (1) discovery and kind of tablets, (2) the court and government of the Egyptians, (3) the letters of Asiatic kings, (4) the letters of Asiatic subjects, (5) the general conditions of the Amarna period. The author gives brief extracts from several of the most interesting letters. His translations agree substantially with those of Winckler. We are glad to see that he adopts Knudtzon's reading, Kadashman-Bel, as the name of the Babylonian king (formerly read Kallima-Sin) who carried on correspondence with Amenophis III. Though just a sketch, this pamphlet gives some idea of the world activity of the fifteenth century B. C., in which the cuneiform language was the language of diplomacy.

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### THUREAU-DANGIN ON THE ORIGIN OF CUNEIFORM WRITING.<sup>2</sup>

Since the publication of *I<sup>re</sup> Partie* of the above work<sup>3</sup> M. Thureau-Dangin has secured much valuable new material touching the original forms of many of the cuneiform signs. This material embraces (1) the new acquisitions of the Louvre Museum, (2) the inscriptions discovered by M. E. de Sarzec (1897-8), (3) copies of texts made by himself in Constantinople in August, 1898, and (4) Part VII of the British Museum Cuneiform Texts. Since the issuance of *I<sup>re</sup> Partie* he has made a new study of the Syllabaries *S<sup>a</sup>*, *S<sup>b</sup>*, and *S<sup>c</sup>*, and observed some confirmations of and some objections to previous conjectures regarding the coalescence in modern form of two and sometimes of more distinct primitive signs.

The author has secured about 130 additional archaic forms, some of which vary but slightly from those already recorded in *I<sup>re</sup> Partie*. He has also cast doubt on some of his former identifications, *e. g.*, those of

<sup>1</sup> *DIE AMARNA-ZEIT: Aegypten und Vorderasien um 1400 v. Chr. nach dem Thontafelfunde von El-Amarna.* Von Carl Niebuhr. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1899. M. 0.60.

<sup>2</sup> *RECHERCHES SUR L'ORIGINE DE L'ÉCRITURE CUNÉIFORME.* Par François Thureau-Dangin. Supplément à la *I<sup>re</sup> Partie*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1899. iv+27 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Reviewed in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SEMITIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES*, Vol. XV, pp. 148 sqq.

Nos. 311, 312, 313, and 51; and has newly identified a few characters. In three cases, after some discussion of the different original characters which have become absorbed into the modern forms, his conclusions arrived at are not in agreement with his previous opinion. The first of these (No. 11) is a discussion of BAD, TIL, in which he reverses his former decision, and concludes these two readings belong to the same original form, and that the second original form should be read *iti*, *idim*, etc. The second discussion (No. 224), covering four pages, is an attempt to unravel the tangle in which the modern GIR (= šê pu, nê ru, em û qu) has become involved through its having become the coalescence of two primitive forms—and these primitive forms, too, have each more than one modern representative. Under No. 419, on the basis of Šp, he finds that the sign read *mes*, *sangu*, represents two quite distinct primitive forms, and these forms are distinctly identified in the archaic inscriptions.

The work is done in the same neat autographic style characteristic of *Ire Partie*, and adds facts of real value for a study of the primitive cuneiform writing. We have noted a couple of slips of the pen: No. 79 should be 82, and 188 should be 187.

The further researches of M. Thureau-Dangin are awaited with interest by all lovers of Assyriology and the early history of the human race.

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## GREEK AND LATIN LOAN-WORDS IN TALMUD, MIDRASH, AND TARGUM.<sup>1</sup>

The second part of this work brings the classical loan-words in ancient Hebrew and Aramaic literatures in alphabetical order. Pp. 1-594 contain the dictionary proper; pp. 594-615, supplementary notes; pp. 617-84, two indexes of Greek and Latin words; and pp. 685-7, corrections of misprints.

Every article contains references, frequently complete, to the sources; and the explanations of predecessors are quoted, and sometimes discussed. The contributions of the ripe scholarship of Dr. Löw enhance the work greatly. Besides the notes in the body of the work, to the last-named scholar belong the indexes, preceded by prefatory remarks, from which we quote the following passage: "Das alphabetische Verzeichniss weist nahezu 1160 Lehnwörter, auf die allein sich phonetische Untersuchungen stützen dürfen, und etwa 295 Fremdwörter nach. Für ungefähr 800 Wörter kann ich die Meinung des Herrn Verfassers nicht theilen. Ich bezeichne diese häufig für gut semitisches Sprachgut in Vorschlag gebrachten Identificationen mit ??, d. h. unwahrscheinlich, oder 0, d. h. unmöglich, und betrachte diesen Widerspruch gegen die mir

<sup>1</sup> GRIECHISCHE UND LATEINISCHE LEHNWÖRTER IM TALMUD, MIDRASCH UND TARGUM. Von Samuel Krauss. Mit Bemerkungen von Immanuel Löw. Preisgekrönte Lösung der Lattes'schen Preisfrage. Teil II. Berlin: S. Calvary & Co., 1899. x+687 pp.; 8vo. M. 28.